

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1           1.     A method of creating an electronic document that is linked to  
2 another electronic document, the method comprising:  
3           displaying a view of a selected electronic document on a graphical user  
4 interface;  
5           receiving, while the view of the selected electronic document is being  
6 displayed, a predetermined user input to create a new electronic document; and  
7           creating the new electronic document in response to receiving the  
8 predetermined user input, wherein the selected electronic document and the new  
9 electronic document are linked to each other.

1           2.     The method of claim 1, further comprising providing that a user can  
2 make any of a plurality of predetermined user inputs, each of the predetermined  
3 user inputs causing a specific new electronic document to be created.

1           3.     The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined user input is  
2 made by selection of a user-selectable command in a menu of the graphical user  
3 interface, and wherein the menu further includes another user-selectable  
4 command for creating an electronic document that is not linked to the selected  
5 electronic document.

1           4.     The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined user input  
2 specifies that the new electronic document is a follow-up of the selected  
3 electronic document.

1           5.     The method of claim 1, further comprising storing an identifier in  
2     association with at least one of the selected electronic document and the new  
3     electronic document to link them to each other.

1           6.     The method of claim 5, further comprising using the identifier, while  
2     a view of the new electronic document is being displayed, to provide access to  
3     the selected electronic document.

1           7.     The method of claim 5, further comprising using the identifier, while  
2     the view of the selected electronic document is being displayed, to provide  
3     access to the new electronic document.

1           8.     The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
2             making a determination, in response to receiving the predetermined user  
3     input, that the view of the selected electronic document is being displayed; and  
4             generating the identifier based on the determination.

1           9.     The method of claim 5, wherein a first identifier is stored in  
2     association with the selected electronic document and a second identifier is  
3     stored in association with the new electronic document to link them to each other.

1           10.    The method of claim 9, wherein the selected electronic document is  
2     also linked to at least one other electronic document and wherein a third identifier  
3     is stored in association with the selected electronic document to link them to  
4     each other.

1           11.    The method of claim 10, wherein the selected electronic document  
2    is a follow-up of the at least one other electronic document.

1           12.    A computer program product tangibly embodied in an information  
2    carrier, the computer program product including instructions that, when executed,  
3    cause a processor to perform operations comprising:  
4           display a view of a selected electronic document on a graphical user  
5    interface;  
6           receive, while the view of the selected electronic document is being  
7    displayed, a predetermined user input to create a new electronic document; and  
8           create the new electronic document in response to receiving the  
9    predetermined user input, wherein the selected electronic document and the new  
10   electronic document are linked to each other.

1           13.    The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the operations  
2    further comprise:  
3           store an identifier in association with at least one of the selected electronic  
4    document and the new electronic document to link them to each other.

1           14.    The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the operations  
2    further comprise:  
3           use the identifier, while a view of the new electronic document is being  
4    displayed, to provide access to the selected electronic document.

1           15.    The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the operations  
2 further comprise:

3           use the identifier, while the view of the selected electronic document is  
4 being displayed, to provide access to the new electronic document.

1           16.    A computer program product tangibly embodied in an information  
2 carrier, the computer program product including instructions that, when executed,  
3 generate on a display device a graphical user interface for creating an electronic  
4 document that is linked to another electronic document, the graphical user  
5 interface comprising:

6           a document display area wherein a view of a selected electronic document  
7 can be displayed; and

8           a user-selectable input control that creates a new electronic document  
9 while the view of the selected electronic document is being displayed, wherein  
10 the selected electronic document and the new electronic document are linked to  
11 each other.

1           17.    The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the graphical  
2 user interface further comprises a plurality of user-selectable input controls, each  
3 of which creates a specific new electronic document.

1           18.    The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the graphical  
2 user interface further comprises a menu that includes the user-selectable input  
3 control and another user-selectable input control for creating an electronic  
4 document that is not linked to the selected electronic document.

1           19.    The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the user-  
2   selectable input control provides that the new electronic document is a follow-up  
3   of the selected electronic document.